

As a former member of the Armed Services Committee I understand the obstacles facing our fight to eliminate terrorism worldwide. H.R. 4569 will remove at least one of these obstacles by promoting interagency cooperation. ISIS is not a traditional enemy and it is critical our security and intelligence agencies support one another. I support H.R. 4569 and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
EMPLOYEE SHORT-TERM DIS-
ABILITY INSURANCE ACT OF 2018

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Federal Employee Short-Term Disability Insurance Act of 2018, which will help provide financial relief for federal employees who have a short-term injury or disability, become pregnant, or develop a pregnancy-related illness. This bill will offer federal employees short-term disability insurance at no cost to the federal government. Employees will be responsible for 100 percent of the premiums, and will be able to receive disability insurance benefits for up to one year, which would replace a portion of their lost income due to a non-work related injury or illness or pregnancy. These benefits will be particularly beneficial to ensure that our federal employees, who do not yet enjoy paid maternity leave, are able to utilize the 12 weeks of unpaid maternity leave permitted by federal law while continuing to pay their bills, buy groceries and make their mortgage, car and other loan payments without having to deplete their retirement or other savings accounts. Too many federal employees do not take advantage of federal unpaid maternity leave because they have no way to replace the lost income.

I decided to investigate how we could provide short-term disability insurance for federal employees after learning that many of them already buy short-term disability insurance as individuals in the private market at high individual rates. Although federal employees have good health insurance, federal health benefits do not replace lost income if employees are unable to work. Moreover, while federal employees may have available sick or annual leave days, they may not have enough such days to pay the bills if they have to be out of work for an extended period. Although there are long-term disability options for federal employees who become permanently disabled, federal employees do not qualify for such benefits until they have worked for the federal government for at least 18 months. My bill does no more than put federal employees in the same position as their private-sector counterparts, who often have access to disability insurance through an employer at group rates. This bill will not allow participating insurance companies to exclude persons based on pre-existing conditions. Because of the federal government's purchasing power, this bill will provide these benefits at a more competitive rate than is available if an employee sought such insurance as an individual, as many do.

According to the Social Security Administration, a 20-year-old worker has a one-in-four chance of becoming disabled by retirement

age. The majority of disabilities are not caused by major accidents, but by injuries or illnesses, such as back injuries or cancer, according to the Council for Disability Awareness. There is every reason to allow our federal employees to take advantage of the federal government's group rates to obtain the most reasonable price if they choose to purchase short-term disability coverage on their own at no cost to the federal government.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CONCEPCION "CONNIE" B.
DUENAS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Concepcion "Connie" B. Duenas. Connie was a proud daughter of Guam and faithful public servant. She served as a Guam Mayor of the village of Tamuning-Tumon-Harmon from 2001 to 2005, and as the Vice Mayor of the village from 1998 to 2000. Connie was born on December 29, 1933 and passed away on January 4, 2018 at the age of 84.

Connie was the daughter of Juan Guerrero Balijadia and Anuncia Quitugua Reyes. She was married to Juan S.A. Duenas and together had four children. Connie was a member of Guam's greatest generation who survived the occupation of Guam during World War II.

Connie graduated from George Washington High School in 1954 and attended the Guam Territorial College and the University of Guam. She joined the Guam Police Department in 1956 and advanced to the rank of sergeant in 1971. Connie was the first female in the Guam police Department to achieve this rank. Connie worked in different capacities while at the Guam Police Department as an administrative and record specialist, and did field work in traffic control, vice squad and juvenile delinquency. She retired at the rank of lieutenant in 1978.

Connie was also very involved in the local community and volunteered her time with many organizations. She was a founding member and served as president for Victims Advocate Reaching Out, an organization which assists victims of crimes such as rape, abuse, and other traumatic experiences. She served as the treasurer for Guma Mami, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing services to people with disabilities. She served as the president of the parent teacher associations of various schools in the village of Tamuning. Connie additionally served the parish of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Tamuning faithfully for many years as a leader in the church and Confraternity of Christian Doctrine teacher.

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Concepcion "Connie" B. Duenas and I join the people of Guam in celebrating her life. She was a dedicated public servant who worked to improve our village of Tamuning-Tumon-Harmon, and the broader community during her tenure. Her involvement in village events and service in public safety were testaments of her

leadership and commitment to the people she served. My thoughts and prayers are with her family, loved ones and friends.

I extend my condolences to her husband Juan and their children Kathy, Eleanor, Yvonne and John and their numerous grandchildren and family members. She will be deeply missed, and her memory will live on in the hearts of the people of Guam.

GLOBAL AVIATION SYSTEM
SECURITY REFORM ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4559.

H.R. 4559, the Global Aviation System Security Reform Act of 2017, aims to conduct a global aviation security review to improve global aviation security standards. H.R. 4559 directs the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to comprehensively review challenges facing the global aviation system and review aviation security implementation. This legislation encourages cooperation between multiple agencies of the Federal Government, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the TSA to ensure proper coordination and outreach both within and outside of the United States government.

The DHS and the TSA have expressed concerns about threats to inbound civil aviation. To manage these threats, key aspects of H.R. 4559 would work to improve the security at last point of departure airports overseas and more generally improve security at airports across the world. We must establish global aviation security standards to create safer skies across the world.

Additionally, as a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure committee, ensuring the safety of transportation mechanisms has been of paramount importance to me, and as a member of the subcommittee on Aviation, I am particularly concerned with this issue. Georgia is home to the busiest airport in the world; 55 million passengers annually travel through Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International airport. I will do everything I can to protect passengers in Georgia, the United States, and the world. I wholeheartedly support H.R. 4559 and urge my fellow members to do the same.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
BRIGADIER GENERAL ANNA HAYS

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of Allentown native Anna Mae Hays, the first woman in the history of the U.S. Armed Forces to be awarded the rank of a general. After a life spent serving in the army and contributing to the Allentown community, Anna passed away in Washington on January 6 at the age of 97.

Born in Buffalo, N.Y. in 1920, Brigadier General (BG) Hays moved to what is now

Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District in 1932. Ten years later, inspired by the tragic Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, she traveled some 60 miles by trolley car from Allentown to Philadelphia to join an Army reserve unit affiliated with the Hospital at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1943, she shipped out to Asia, where she served at the 20th Field Hospital, tending to wounded soldiers in India.

As an Army nurse, BG Hays' compassion for others was unparalleled. Furthermore, she was resolute in her mission to provide the highest level of care to our nation's troops, even battling severe illnesses and hardships of her own to do so. Following WWII, she again served hundreds of wounded soldiers at the 4th Field Hospital in Inchon and the Tokyo Army Hospital during the Korean War.

After the wars, her compassion did not waver as she continued to serve in military hospitals. This included a stint at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where two of her patients included General George C. Marshall and President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

When war broke out in Vietnam, BG Hays again answered the call of duty. She worked in the Army Nurse Corps and rose to the rank of chief, visiting Vietnam on many occasions to inspect medical installations.

On June 11, 1970, BG Hays was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General after being nominated by President Nixon, becoming the first woman to ever receive this distinction. Additionally, she was also awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the highest noncombat award issued by the Pentagon.

Brigadier General Anna Mae Hays will always be remembered for her kindness and service towards others and her love of her childhood home in the Lehigh Valley. Even at 90 years old, Anna consistently drove back to Allentown to visit loved ones and donate historical items to local museums.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to please join me in recognizing the life of this remarkable woman and her monumental accomplishments. Her commitment to our armed service members and to our country will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2017 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2017 recipients of the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Presented annually, the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to our Nation's immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. The Medals are awarded to U.S. citizens from diverse ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage and culture. We honor these outstanding individuals because the important work they do today creates a better world for all of us tomorrow. This momentous occasion was celebrated with a patriotic ceremony on Ellis Island and a recommitment by the leaders of the organization to their mission of honoring diver-

sity, fostering tolerance and promoting religious and racial unity across America.

Since the Medals' founding, more than 2,500 American citizens have received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, including seven American Presidents, numerous United States Senators and Congressmen, two Nobel Laureates, and many athletes, artists, clergy, and military leaders. This Medal is not about material success, nor is it about the politics of immigration; it is about the people who have committed themselves to this nation, embraced the opportunities America offers, and most importantly, who have used those opportunities to not only better their own lives but make a difference in our country and in the lives of its people.

Citizens of the United States hail from every nation known to man. The iconic metaphor of this nation as a veritable melting pot of cultures continues to ring true, and it is this diversity that adds to the unique richness of American life. It is the key to why America is the most innovative, progressive and forward thinking country in the world. The Ellis Island Medals of Honor not only celebrate select individuals but also the pluralism and democracy that enabled our forbearers to celebrate their cultural identities while still embracing the American way of life. This award serves to remind us all that with hard work and perseverance anyone can still achieve the American dream. In addition, by honoring these remarkable Americans, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they have made to America. I commend NECO and its Board of Directors headed by my good friend, Nasser J. Kazeminy, for honoring these truly outstanding individuals for their tireless efforts to foster dialogue and build bridges between different ethnic groups, as well as to promote unity and a sense of common purpose in our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good works of NECO and in congratulating all of the 2017 recipients of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

2017 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Ken Aagaard, David B. Agus, MD, The Honorable Dr. Buzz Aldrin, Hormoz Ameri, Loreen Arbus, Dr. Abbas Ardehali, Nadim C. Ashi, Lieutenant General Ronald L. Bailey, Sook Ja Bang, Herb Baum, Ruth Bedevian, Kurken Yetvart Berksanlar, Mollie Ann Bracigliano, Susan Burchard, Thomas L. Cantone, Robert E. Carlucci, LTC Daniel L. Cederman, Heather Won Choi, Winn Claybaugh, Konstantine Costalas, Peter Cuneo, Robert Currie, BS, MA, PhD (Hon.), FSA Scot, Captain Michael H. Day, Ronald A. DePinho, MD, Joseph D'Urso, Suzanne El Sayegh, MD, FACP, FASN.

Dr. Hossein Eslambolchi, Mohammad Farzaneh, Commander Jonathan A. Forsberg, MD, PhD, Michael Greco, Mindy Grossman, Emile K. Haddad, Adil H. Haider, MD, MPH, FACS, Lieutenant General Stayce D. Harris, Patricia de Stacy Harrison, Lucine Mardirosian Harvey, Yumi Hogan, Rachel S. Howitt, Ming Hsieh, Soo-Il Jung, Governor John Kasich, Mumtaz A. Kazim, MD, Thomas A. Keller, Victoria Reggie Kennedy, ESQ, Alsun Keogh, R. Gil Kerlikowske.

Olga Kern, Annapoorna S. Kini, MD, Murat N. Koprulu, Sven Kraemer, Honorable Darin M. LaHood, Sherry Lansing, Noel Lateef, Andy Andranik, Madadian, Bill McMorrow, Frank Melkonian, George Fouad Mobassaleh, Sebastian Paul Musco, Francois Nader, MD, MBA, Daniel A. Nigro, Indra K. Nooyi, Jeffrey S. Olson, Eleni Paliros-Bousis, Dinesh Paliwal.

Harris Pastides, PhD, Mohan H. Patel, Yashvant Patel, Joan Agajanian Quinn, Honorable Azita Raji, Brigadier General Austin E. Renforth, Commanding General, Marine Corp, Dame Tadia Rice, Ihor S. Sawczuk, MD, FACS, Richard C. Shadyac, Jr., Major General Larry W. Shellito USN (Ret.), EdD, James P. Sherlock, Anne Shih, Assistant Chief Theresa J. Shorten, Maggie Soleimani, Esq., Admiral James Stavridis, USN (Ret.), Carol Gomez Summerhays, DDS, Mary-Christine (M.C.) Sungaila, Esq., Ara Tekian, PRD, MHPE, Dr. Sean Shaheen Tedjarati.

Garo M. Terzakian, MD, Rear Admiral Cynthia M. Thebaud, USN (Ret.), Alvin S. Trenk, Veronica Tsang, Cumrun Vafa, Brigadier General Suzanne P. Vares-Lum, USA, Charlie Woo, Chun B. (Charlie) Yim, D.B.A., Ma Cheol Yim, Dr. Fareed Zakaria.

INTERNATIONAL ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Emmanuelle Charpentier, PhD, Amir A. Dossal, FCA, Hamdi Ulukaya.

GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

Malala Yousafzai.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIERRA SACRAMENTO VALLEY MEDICAL SOCIETY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society (SSVMS) as it celebrates its 150th anniversary. As the members of SSVMS gather today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Society's long history of service to the Sacramento region and beyond.

The Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society, originally known as the Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement, has been in continuous operation since the 1860s. It was founded by physicians from different areas of expertise dedicated to providing quality medical care for our community. Throughout its history, the Society has benefited from the leadership of dedicated public servants such as council members, a mayor, senators, and presidents of the American Medical Association, to name just a few of the preeminent individuals who have played a role in the Society's growth and development.

As the oldest medical society in California, SSVMS is a vital part of our region's history. The Society helps understand and fight disease, promotes community education, advocates for local physicians, and supports the principles of the medical profession. The Society is committed to increasing access to health-care services and providing scholarships to medical students. In 1947 it founded the Sacramento Medical Foundation, which so many of us in Sacramento now known as BloodSource. And its Joy of Medicine program seeks to relieve physician pain and help to reclaim the joy of practicing medicine through education, advocacy, and program services designed to nurture individual well-being and collegiality.

Mr. Speaker, as those who value the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society's many contributions celebrate its 150 years of invaluable service to Sacramento, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this prestigious